CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for maximizing the distribution of market information in an electronic trading environment, the method comprising:

determining bandwidth for a communication link that is used in distributing market information from an electronic market; and

dynamically selecting a mode of transmission for distributing the market information from a plurality of modes of transmission such that the bandwidth used to distribute the market information by the selected mode of transmission comports with the determined bandwidth and maximizes the distribution of the market information.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the mode of transmission comprises automatically sending an update message with new market information when a change in a market order book is detected.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the selected mode of transmission comprises sending update messages with new market information on intervals.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the communication link comprises a network connection from the market information source to a gateway.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the communication link comprises a network connection from an electronic market information source to a client device.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the communication link comprises a network connection from a gateway to a client device.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein determining bandwidth for a communication link comprises manually setting a bandwidth limit.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein determining bandwidth for a communication link comprises measuring the bandwidth electronically by software.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the mode of transmission can be dynamically changed from a first mode to a second mode when the second mode maximizes the distribution of the market information more than the first mode.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the mode of transmission can be dynamically changed from the second mode back to the first mode when the first mode maximizes the distribution of the market information more than the second mode.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein aspects of the mode of transmission may be dynamically adjusted to comport with changing bandwidth limits.

12. A method for maximizing the distribution of market information in an electronic trading environment, the method comprising:

determining a bandwidth limit for a communication link that is used in distributing market information from an electronic market;

selecting a first mode of transmission for distributing the market information from a plurality of modes of transmission to comport with the bandwidth limit and maximize the distribution of the market information; and

dynamically selecting a second mode of transmission for distributing the market information from the plurality of modes of transmission when the bandwidth used to distribute the market information by the first mode of transmission exceeds the bandwidth limit.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of selecting again the first mode of transmission for distributing the market information when the bandwidth used to distribute the market information by the first mode comports with the bandwidth limit and maximizes the distribution of the market information better than the second mode of transmission.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the first mode of transmission provides a fast response time to changing market conditions

15. The method of claim 12 wherein the second mode of transmission provides predictable network bandwidth consumption.

16. A system for maximizing the distribution of market information in an electronic trading environment, the method comprising:

a bandwidth monitor for determining bandwidth for a communication link that is used in distributing market information from an electronic market; and

a market information interface for dynamically selecting a mode of transmission for distributing the market information from a plurality of modes of transmission such that the bandwidth used to distribute the market information by the selected mode of transmission comports with the determined bandwidth and maximizes the distribution of the market information.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein the bandwidth monitor receives a bandwidth limit signal indicating the maximum allowable bandwidth for the communication link.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the bandwidth limit is manually set.

19. The system of claim 17 wherein the bandwidth limit is dynamically adjusted according to current bandwidth consumption on the communication link.

20. The system of claim 20 further comprising a market information storage buffer for buffering market information before being distributed according to the selected mode of transmission on the communication link.